

The most lamentable Tragedie

Now all the seruice I require of them,
Is that the one will helpe to cut the other.
Tis well *Lavinia* that thou hast no handes,
For handes to doe Rome seruice, is but vaine.

Lucius. Speake gentle sifter, who hath martred thee.

Marcus. Oh that delightfull engine of her thoughts,
That blabd them with such pleasing eloquence.
Is torne from forth that prettie hollow cage,
Where like a sweet mellodious bird it sung,
Sweet varied notes inchaunting euery eare.

Lucius. Oh say thou for her, who hath done this deede?

Marcus. Oh thus I found her straying in the Parke,
Seeking to hide herselfe as doth the Deare
That hath receaude some vnrecuring wound.

Titus. It was my Deare, and he that wounded her,
Hath hurt me more then had he kild me dead:

For now I stand as one vpon a Rock,
Inuironed with a wildernes of Sea,
Who markes the waxing tide, grow waue by waue,
Expecting euer when some enuious surge,
Will in his brinish bowels swallow him.

This way to death my wretched sonnes are gone,
Here stands my other sonne, a banisht man,
And heere my brother weeping at my woes:
But that which giues my soule the greatest spurne,
Is deere *Lavinia*, deerer than my soule.

Had I but seene thy picture in this plight,
It would haue madded me: what shall I doe,
Nowe I behold thy liuely body so?

Thou hast no hands to wipe away thy teares,
Nor tongue to tell me who hath martred thee:
Thy husband he is dead, and for his death
Thy brothers are condemnde, and dead by this.
Looke *Marcus*, ah sonne *Lucius* looke on her,

When

of Titus Andronicus.

When I did name her brothers, then fresh teares
Stoode on her cheekes, as doth the honny dew,
Vpon a gathred Lillie almost withered. (husband,

Marcus. Perchance she weepes because they kild her
Perchance, because shee knowes them innocent.

Titus. If they did kill thy husband then be ioyfull,
Because the Law hath tane reuenge on them.

No, no, they would not doe so foule a deede,
Witnes the sorrow that their sifter makes.

Gentle *Lavinia*, let me kisse thy lips,
Or make some signe how I may doe thee ease:
Shall thy good Vncle, and thy brother *Lucius*

And thou and I sit rounde about some Fountaine,
Looking all downewards to behold our cheekes

How they are stainde in Meadowes yet not drie,
With mierie slime left on them by a flood?

And in the Fountaine shall we gaze so long,
Till the fresh taste be taken from that cleerenes,

And made a brine pit with our bitter teares?
Or shall we cut away our hands like thine?

Or shall we bite our tongues, and in dombe shewes
Passe the remainder of our hatefull dayes?

What shall we doe? let vs that haue our tongues
Plot some deuise of further miserie

To make vs wondred at in time to come.

Luci. Sweet father cease your teares, for at your greefe
See how my wretched sifter sobs and weepes.

Mar. Patience deere Neece, good *Titus* dry thine eyes.

Titus. Ah *Marcus*, *Marcus*, Brother well I wote,
Thy napkin cannot drinke a teare of mine,

For thou poore man hast drownd it with thine owne.

Lucius. Ah my *Lavinia*, I will wipe thy cheekes.

Titus. Marke *Marcus*, marke, I vnderstand her signes,
Had she a tongue to speake, now would she say

That